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Province announces \$350K in tourism funding

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Much-anticipated provincial funding to support the tourism region that includes the Haliburton Highlands was announced yesterday, with \$350,000 awarded to Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization to help offer relief to organizations hard-hit by COVID-19.

Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries made the announcement virtually via online teleconferencing tool Zoom, with Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock; John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; Daryl Kramp, MPP for Hastings, Lennox and Addington and Nicole Whiting, executive director of Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (RTO 11).

"I know that our sectors were hit first, hardest, and will take the longest to recover as a result of COVID-19," said MacLeod, before announcing \$350,000 to support the regional tourism organization, she said, "so they can engage and support hyper-local tourism

see HYPER-LOCAL page 2



Ready, set, action

A film crew from Barrie- and Newmarket-based Brain Power Studio were at the Minden Wild Water Preserve on Dec. 7 filming a stunt scene for holiday movie Christmas in the Wilds, which is scheduled to be released in 2021. /Photo courtesy of Dave Gillespie

Ministry investigating North Shore Road blast

by MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

An incident last Wednesday, Dec. 2 that some area residents believed could have been an earthquake or home explosion turned out to be a "blast gone wrong" at the Thomas Contracting Quarry, located on North Shore Road near Highway 35 in Algonquin Highlands.

Shortly before 2 p.m. dozens of people, some as far away as Minden and Haliburton Village, reported experiencing a loud blast and subsequent rumbling. While there was much immediate speculation online about what could have caused the issue, Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt moved quickly to allay the public's fears.

"As everything shimmied and shook on my desk at home, I blurted out things I won't put on this page. I wondered if it was an earthquake or rock blast; and after making a few quick calls I can confirm the blast occurred in the aggregate pit on North Shore Road," Moffatt posted on her political Facebook page.

While the pit is owned by Thomas Contracting, they weren't the ones responsible for last week's blast. According to Gary Wheeler, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), blasting operations at the site have been contracted out to Fowler Construction,

see RESIDENTS page 2

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Residents report widespread rumbling

from page 1

who in turn subcontracted the blasting work to Austin Powder Ltd.

The incident was reported to both the MECP and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on Wednesday.

"The ministry is working to determine the cause of the blasting noise limit exceedance, any potential violation and address public concerns. Currently, it is too early to determine the results of the ministry's review and assessment of the incident," Wheeler informed the *Times*.

Wheeler confirmed the MECP received numerous complaints from the public following the incident.

A post on a local community page on Facebook discussing the blast has so far garnered 104 responses. Many local residents are using it as a platform to share their experiences in the aftermath of the explosion.

"It was pretty crazy how the house rumbled and the trees shook for a while afterwards," noted Joleen Thomas.

Andrea Coysh reported hearing the blast at her home just east of Minden, on County Road 21, approximately 20 kilometres away from the blast site. Emmy Lester, who lives in nearby Ingoldsby, said she too heard the explosion.

Susan Deborah works in Minden, and she said the blast "reverberated in the windows of our office building".

"Knew it was a blast, but unbelievable it was that far away," Deborah noted.

Living in the vicinity of the Thomas Contracting Quarry, Bert Kennedy is no

stranger to the usual noises that emanate from the site. Last Wednesday's blast was anything but usual, Kennedy claimed.

"We live quite close to the pit where the blast took place and our house vibrated and shook," Kennedy wrote. "I was in my wood shop and thought a big tree was coming through the roof. Neighbours report things like structure damage, window and concrete cracks."

Some residents wondered if there was a connection between the 2 p.m. blast and an earlier sighting of a falling meteor, which came into view at around noon and could be seen across much of southern Ontario, but that was quickly chalked up as being a coincidence.

The MECP is currently working with both Fowler Construction and Austin Powder Ltd. to ensure the companies take appropriate action to address the public's concerns and ensure similar incidents do not occur at the site in the future. Wheeler noted the organizations will be required to meet with individuals who claim the blast damaged their property.

"We are requiring that the company conduct inspections of the reported damage to determine what steps are necessary to restore the property. The ministry will monitor the progress of these inspections and ensure that the parties involved take appropriate action," Wheeler stated.

John McBride, director of operations with Fowler Construction, informed the *Times* that he has already met with representatives from Austin Powder Ltd. in an attempt to find what, exactly, occurred last week. While he acknowledged there was an exceedance

on the acceptable noise level of the blast, as regulated by the ministry, the two companies were still working to determine its cause.

"We are collecting data from the subcontractor. We monitor for noise and vibrations on every blast, so we have to look at the seismograph readings and see where they are. We photograph and film it all too, so we can look at that frame by frame to determine, number one, what happened, and then number two, what can we do to make sure this never happens again," McBride said. "There are rules and regulations that we have to abide by and

we take that very seriously. We do enough of this stuff that we have to fit within those guidelines."

McBride said interviews with the blasters on site had already been conducted, and the two companies were now working to understand what went wrong.

"We have to be able to explain this to the ministry, but we also have to be able to explain this to the public too. That's my concern right now," McBride said. "This sort of thing just cannot happen. We have to stay within the standards, period."

Hyper-local tourism focus of marketing

from page 1

activities within the region, in order to position us for a comeback for a year of Staycation 2021."

Previously, MacLeod said the government had invested about 2.9 million this year in initiatives including community museum operating grants, which included funding for the Haliburton Highlands Museum, public libraries across the region, including the Haliburton County Public Library, and heritage organizations and iconic events.

"All told, this \$3.25 million, in this critical part of our province, is required to do two things," said MacLeod. "One, is to aid and guide the economic recovery of the heritage, sport, tourism, culture industries, as we move forward to 2021 and beyond. And the second thing, and this is probably the most important thing, it's about community. It's about where we live. It's about pride of place and pride of people. The investments we've made through this ministry hit to the very core of what it means to be an Ontarian and why we love to live where we do."

She said she was proud to "deliver this news right before Christmas, so that we can provide stability and continuity in our sectors despite how challenging these times [have been]."

Region 11 includes an entirely rural area from the Haliburton Highlands to the Ottawa Valley Tourism Region, encompassing six counties and 45 municipalities.

"Haliburton and the surrounding area is one of the most photographed regions in our province and is a beautiful jewel in the natural beauty within Ontario," said Scott in a press release. "The provincial funding announced today will help support the families and businesses who work in the local tourism sector which has been hampered this year by the impact of COVID-19."

Nicole Whiting, executive director of OHTO, (RTO 11), was thrilled with the announcement, thanking MacLeod for her "unwavering support of our industry."

"As it turns out, our region has exactly what people were looking for, so many of the businesses that were not sure how they would fare ended up, some even having their best summers ever," she said. "That isn't to say there isn't still a lot of struggle still out there, for sure, but we are really excited about how our industry has come together and responded to being there for the consumer in terms of the product we have to offer."

"Our communities are surrounded by world-class natural assets, but it's the char-



Lisa MacLeod, below, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, joined MPP Laurie Scott, seen above, MPP John Yakabuski and MPP Daryl Kramp to announce \$350,000 in local tourism support in an area that includes Haliburton County and the Ottawa valley. /Screenshot

acter of our people that brings our natural environment and our rich cultural heritage to life," she said. "The investments made in our region will help preserve an incredible legacy of collaboration, creativity and resilience ... The provincial support behind our sector is what allows us to feel hopeful for the future, for sure."

The funding announcement was expected this past July, when MacLeod and Scott visited the Highlands together as part of the "Reopening Ontario Tour."

"All funding to assist with our tourism initiatives is welcome, even when it comes through a bit later than expected," said Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen. "This funding goes a long way towards assisting the region, and Haliburton, in proceeding with several programs underway both during the pandemic and as we move forward. We are hopeful to hear a further funding announcement in the very near future and appreciate the province's commitment to tourism as an industry that we rely upon so heavily."

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Highlands Christmas Shindig

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Getting answers on blue-green algae communications

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

Haliburton County councillors will request a delegation with provincial cabinet ministers at the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference to seek clarity on just who, exactly, is responsible for informing the public when a blue-green algae bloom has been discovered on a lake.

As previously reported, a number of suspected blue-green algae blooms were reported in the county this fall, and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks confirmed in November that one reported on Bob Lake in Minden Hills was indeed an algae bloom.

The blooms, typically caused by high levels of phosphorous, can be toxic and potentially fatal, including to pets.

“A member of the public notified the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks of a potential bloom on Bob Lake, the ministry completed an inspection and then submitted tests to the lab,” Minden Hills Trisha McKibbin chief administrative officer told councillors during a late-November meeting.

Those results took about a week to come back, with the ministry confirming on Nov. 16 the existence of the bloom, and that it had dissipated by Nov. 17.

McKibbin noted that according to the ministry, the bloom was small, isolated, and dissipated quickly.

“The ministry was in contact with the member of the public and with the Bob Lake Association,” McKibbin said. “. . . Contact was also made with the municipality and with the health unit. I also reached out to the health unit to have a conversation about what we as the municipality should be doing and what communications should take place.”

For years, it’s been unclear whether informing the general public of the presence of an algae bloom is the responsibility of the health unit or municipal governments, and McKibbin said the health unit directs members of the public to its website.

“In Haliburton County, there have been at least five blooms so far over the last couple of weeks, and lots of reasons for it – a little bit of warmer weather, the drawdown of the lakes, which causes a whole bunch of things to happen, climate change, there’s a whole bunch of things,” said Councillor Bob Carter, who’s also president of the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization. “This is what the health unit sends people if they ask. Unfortunately, how sick do they have to be before

they ask that there is a bloom?”

“These are neurotoxins that are deadly and very, very dangerous,” Carter continued. “So the question becomes, when we have a bloom, we get the ministry of environment involved, it takes them a week or so to do the testing after they arrive . . . What do we do once we get that information? There’s now a blip. If that bloom is on Kashagawigamog, we’ve got about 1,000 or so people that we should notify.”

Carter noted that many lake and river residents take their drinking water directly from those lakes and rivers.

“So it’s not enough that the health unit would send you something if you ask for it,” Carter said. “Who’s going to tell the people, and what is the communication process by which people are going to be notified, and then who is responsible for it? Because, if we’re talking death, there’s probably something here that should be codified and put into a process where we can alert people.”

Haliburton County council had met the day prior, with councillors deciding they would request a delegation with provincial cabinet ministers during the ROMA conference, which will take place virtually in late January.

At that meeting, Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen said she was concerned that someone who got ill or whose pet died from an algae bloom would wind up suing the municipality.

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin agreed, saying he wanted it made clear precisely who was ultimately responsible, and therefore liable.

“Who’s primary?” Devolin said. “I just clearly want to know. Who’s going to be primary in this mess?”

“

I just clearly want to know.
Who’s going to be primary in
this mess?

— MINDEN HILLS MAYOR BRENT DEVOLIN

”

AH council talks budget priorities

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

Algonquin Highlands councillors discussed potential projects and priorities for 2021 during a special meeting on Nov. 26.

It’s an annual pre-budget exercise for councillors as they try to decide what will make the cut for the upcoming year’s budget. For 2021, a couple of pressures include the township’s recently received asset management plan and the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

“For Algonquin Highlands, it’s created some logistical and financial challenges,” chief administrative officer Angie Bird said of the pandemic during a special Nov. 26 meeting of council. “It impacted how we provided services to the public, and obviously led to some cancellation of many of our

programs. Despite this though, the township was still able to complete many planned projects throughout the year.”

Mayor Carol Moffatt noted that with mounting financial constraints, the number of projects the township is able to complete in a year might begin to decrease.

Among numerous proposed priorities for 2021 are renovations to the basement of the township’s North Shore Road office to allow additional space for staff; the creation of a contract communications position; upgrading and modernizing the township’s website; the installation of electronic live-streaming equipment in council chambers; consideration of development charges; consideration of short-term rental regulations; a formalized fire safety public education program; the creation of a new seasonal trails technician/bylaw officer position; and the reconstruction of North Shore Road.

Decisions will be made during budget deliberations. The draft budget will also include a 1.5 per cent cost of living increase for staff.



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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

December 10 – Regular Council Meeting and 1st Round 2021 Budget Deliberations

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in December. Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.minden hills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.minden hills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

RIVERWALK WINTER USAGE & WETLANDS BOARDWALK UPDATE

The Boardwalk is currently closed until further notice. The Logger’s Crossing Bridge is cleared of snow regularly but is not sanded or salted. Residents are advised to “Exercise Caution” when using pathways as they could develop slippery conditions.

RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK

Wrapping paper should be placed in the Paper (Fibres) stream, with the exception of the foil/shiny wrapping paper it is not recyclable..

WINTER SAND

Winter sand is now available at the upper parking lot of the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Community Centre, by the Skate Park. Please note this is for Individual Use Only – No Commercial Users Please.

MINDEN FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM

The Minden Food Bank Annual Christmas Hamper Program application begins on Nov 30th. Apply for a hamper by calling the Food Bank at 705-286-6400 between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM from Nov 30th to Dec 4th and Dec 7th to Dec 11th.

Hampers can be picked up on Monday Dec 21st between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM at the Minden Community Centre.

NEW for this year: Hamper pick up will be a **Drive-Thru** format. When you arrive at the Minden Community Centre, a volunteer will direct you to a parking space. Please have the I.D for everyone listed on your application ready.

A volunteer will bring your Christmas Hamper and toys outside and place them on a designated table beside your vehicle. Please remain in your vehicle until all products have been placed on the table. Once completed, you may get out and pack your items into your vehicle (NOTE: if you require assistance to lift, please bring someone to help you).

In order to ensure COVID GUIDELINES are being followed, volunteers will not be allowed to load items into vehicles and community members will not be allowed to enter the building. We ask that everyone respect these guidelines and wait in their vehicles in the line-up.

Please note that there will be no used/new clothing available on hamper pick up day. A **Christmas Boutique** has been made available at the Food Bank on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM until December 20th.

For more information please contact the Foodbank at 705-286-6838

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINDEN HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Picking the Tree

Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing The Tree

Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk. Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights. Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit. Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting The Tree

Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of light strands to connect. Never use lit candles to decorate the tree. Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

Be Nice Driving On Ice

- Stopping distance on ice is double that of a dry road.
- Leave extra space when driving in icing conditions.
- Approach intersections slowly, when they are covered with ice or snow.
- Use extra caution on bridges and ramps. Ice can form without warning, even if roadways are dry.
- Watch out for black ice, a thin, nearly invisible coat of ice that can make the road look like shiny new asphalt. Pavement will look grey or white in the winter..

Haliburton County moves into Ontario’s COVID-19 ‘Yellow’ zone

by **MIKE BAKER**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

New COVID-19 restrictions limiting the number of people allowed at social gatherings and tightening regulations on bars and restaurants are being implemented across Haliburton County this week.

It was revealed on Friday, Dec. 4 that the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge [HKPR] District Health Unit would be moving into the ‘Yellow-Protect’ level of Ontario’s COVID-19 response framework. Officially transitioning at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 7, the move comes as a result of increased coronavirus activity in our area, according to Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, medical officer of health with HKPR District Health Unit.

“We are seeing more COVID-19 activity in our region, so the move into ‘Yellow’ is not a surprise,” Dr. Noseworthy stated. “The new measures in the ‘Yellow’ level are not much different than what we currently have in place, but will enhance our ability to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.”

The local health unit will stay in the ‘Yellow’ level for a minimum of 28 days.

As of Monday, Dec. 7, there are 35 unresolved cases of COVID-19 within our local health region, although none of those individuals reside in Haliburton [28 in Northumberland County, and seven in the City of Kawartha Lakes]. There hasn’t been

a case of COVID-19 reported in Haliburton County since Nov. 27. According to the local health unit, that case is no longer considered active.

Since the pandemic began back in March, there have been 349 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the HKPR District Health Unit, with 27 of those stemming from Haliburton County. The local area was one of only two health units in southern Ontario to remain in the ‘Green-Prevent’ category, along with Renfrew County and District Health Unit, prior to Monday’s shift.

The ‘Yellow-Protect’ level is the second lowest in Ontario’s five-level COVID-19 response framework. Others include ‘Green-Prevent’, ‘Orange-Restrict’, ‘Red-Control’, and ‘Grey-Lockdown’. These public health measures can be adjusted, tightened, or loosened based on local COVID-19 trends and case counts. The colour code for each health region is reviewed weekly by the Ontario Ministry of Health.

Under the new zone, limits to the number of people allowed at organized public events, social gatherings and religious services, rites and ceremonies remain in place. For events such as parties, family dinners or wedding receptions held at home, there is a limit of 10 people allowed indoors and 25 people allowed outdoors. Limits for public events and gatherings in staffed businesses and facilities are capped at 50 people for indoor events and

100 people for outdoor events.

The restaurant industry is taking the hardest hit with the move, with new rules stating all eateries and bars must be closed by midnight, while alcohol can no longer be sold or served after 11 p.m. There is also a new limit on the number of people that can be seated at one table while dining in, capped at six. As well, contact information must be collected from all patrons who dine in at a restaurant. Previous rules stated only one person from a party had to provide their contact information.

Gyms and fitness clubs are also impacted by the move, with new rules mandating spacing between patrons inside the facility should be extended to three metres, up from two metres, in areas with weights or exercise equipment.

Any business found to be in violation of the new regulations run the risk of receiving a hefty fine. There have been reports of businesses in heavily-impacted areas such as Toronto and Peel Region being fined as much as \$10,000 for breaking various COVID-19 protection measures.

Entrepreneurs in Haliburton County have, largely, played ball when it comes to adapting their business practices in the wake of new rules and regulations in recent months, according to Dr. Noseworthy.

“Local businesses and organizations have done an excellent job following the public

health measures designed to protect our residents,” she said. “It’s important we continue to work together with our business community to ensure a smooth transition to the new restrictions coming into effect under the ‘Yellow’ level.”

Local residents should continue to follow recommended public health measures, such as staying home when ill, wearing a mask while in public, maintaining physical distancing, washing hands thoroughly and frequently, and avoiding all non-essential travel, especially to high-risk areas.

In a recent letter directed to area residents, Carolyn Plummer, President and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services, said it was especially important to follow these practices with the busy holiday season now upon us.

“Just as I ask my staff to remain cautious about their infection control and prevention measures, I am also respectfully asking this of our community,” Plummer said. “With the prevalence of the virus across the province rising, lockdowns in other regions, and the holiday season upon us, this [move to the ‘Yellow’ zone] is no surprise.”

“I know there will be brighter, and warmer days ahead for us all, and I remain deeply grateful for everything our community continues to do to protect the health and safety of our staff, patients, residents, families, friends and neighbours,” Plummer concluded.



December sunshine
The Gull River was looking like a postcard on the afternoon of Dec. 2. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

New Cases Reported Today			
0	1	8	
Haliburton	KawarthaLakes	Northumberland	

Total Confirmed Cases to Date			
27	206	124 *	357 *
Haliburton (HAL)	Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	Northumberland (NTH)	HKPRDHU

One new additional case, previously reported to public health, has been transferred from another health unit to the HKPRDHU and is included in the confirmed cases to date.

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County							
County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	0	27	2	0	1	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	7	179	19	0	11	19	13
Northumberland	28	88	174	0	4	1	0

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU							
All Counties	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
HKPRDHU	39	298	185	0	17	20	13

All resolved
The local public health unit is reporting zero cases of confirmed COVID-19 in Haliburton County, and all 27 previous cases have resolved, with two current high-risk contacts, as of Dec.8./Screenshot from HKPRDHU website

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Land trust celebrates wetlands, discusses advocacy for protection

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Times Staff

During the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust annual general meeting held on Dec. 2, a successful 2019 was celebrated, as were positive gains for the land trust in 2020 which included the opening of Barnum Creek Nature Reserve trails and essential work toward protecting area wetlands. The meeting is usually held in June, but instead took place via Zoom, with members connecting online, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Land trust properties offer outdoor space in 2020

"What would the land trust be without our land?," said Mary-Lou Gerstl, past-chair, during a message from the chair address. "Our five properties represent nature at its finest, donated out of love by those who spent years reforesting, nurturing and envisioning its existence in their natural state in perpetuity. Their gift to the Haliburton Highlands and to the citizens of Canada not only benefits the environment but provides an opportunity for exercise, quiet reflection and ease of mind."

Gerstl said in a year plagued by COVID-19, a record number of visitors – up to dozens in a day – had been seen at the two land trust properties – Dahl Forest, and Barnum Creek Nature Reserve – open to the public.

"It is good to know that during these trying and stressful times, we can offer our beautiful properties for people to get out and walk or hike our trails for exercise or simply pass a few calm moments and reap the cognitive and health benefits of being outside in the natural world," said Gerstl.

Because the AGM happened so late in the year, treasurer David Bathe was able to offer an update on what 2020 looked like so far in terms of land trust finances, and his report was positive.

Donations amassed so far were at almost \$6,000 by the end of October, compared to last year's donations – apart from bequests and foundation offerings – of \$8,000.

"There's been quite a flurry of activity in November and we still have December," said Bathe.

While last year, \$3,100 was raised in memberships, \$5,000 of memberships have been purchased in 2020. Last year's gala raised more than \$10,000 for the land trust, and though such an event couldn't be held this year due to pandemic restrictions, "fundraisers got creative," Bathe said, and still raised almost \$7,000 through an online auction.

With the interest in Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, \$2,500 was raised in acre purchases, and \$500 was raised through Dahl Forest acre purchases.

"2020 which we were very worried about is turning out just fine, and we're lucky to have the support we have from people in the community and actually people from all over," said Bathe.

Grants help fund land trust accomplishments in 2019

Mary-Lou Gerstl, past-chair, delivered the message from the chair at the AGM, and said 2019 had been a great year for the land trust in terms of both financial outcome and accomplishments.

"Our focus continued to be on our core responsibilities to maintain and protect our five properties, community education that promotes sound stewardship practices and research work focused on the conservation of the rich biodiversity of the Haliburton Highlands," she said.

The land trust obtained four grants in the 2019/2020 year, totalling \$134,000, to further wetlands work including the development and testing of a new wetland mapping technique.

"The Ontario Trillium Foundation SEED grant of \$71,000 was used to develop and test a new wetland mapping technique that has now provided our county and municipal planners with more accurate mapping for future development decision making," read the official chair message



The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust met for a late AGM, postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, on Dec. 2 via Zoom. Gary Wickware, chair, led the online meeting. /Screenshot

notes. "Feedback from the county and municipal planners was very positive and has led to a data sharing agreement between the County of Haliburton and HHLT. In this grant, we also assessed private landowners' awareness and support for wetland conservation in the geographic townships of Lutterworth, Snowdon and Glamorgan. There was strong support for protecting our wetlands as a natural solution to the effects of climate change."

Additionally, the land trust was awarded with a \$36,400 grant from the Environment Canada and Climate Change, Climate Action Fun, "to raise the awareness of the impacts of climate change through outreach, community engagement and wetland evaluation." The grant allowed the land trust to map and evaluate Kendrick Creek Wetland Complex, an

see FUNDRAISING page 8



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IN OTHER WORDS

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A Shindig to remember

SOME READERS may be aware that I'm a musician, and some may be aware that my friend Tim Tofflemire and I played the Haliburton Highlands Christmas Shindig the weekend before last, our set taking place at Minden's Dominion Hotel.

I've played the Shindig before and I've played at the Dominion dozens of times, but none of those times during a global pandemic.

Normally, the Shindig, an annual concert and variety show that is a fundraiser for county-based charity Fuel for Warmth, takes place at a sold-out Northern Lights Pavilion. When emails from organizer and host Mike Jaycock started going out to performers several months ago, it was hoped that maybe the show would be able to take place at the pavilion with social distancing in place, or maybe live-streamed from an empty theatre. When it became clear that would not be able to happen, organizers came up with the concept of live-streaming the show from three locations, which ended up being the Dominion, the Haliburton Highlands Museum and Canoe FM headquarters in Haliburton Village. At one point, it was hoped that maybe at least a small audience could be present at each location, but as the curve of the virus began to worsen again, it became clear that would not be the case either.

I've performed a couple of COVID concerts, essentially playing to an empty room, the performance live-streamed to an invisible audience on the internet, and it's truly a bizarre experience.

Live music is inherently about the connection between audience and performer. You feed off one another, and when it's right, it's a collective spiritual experience.

A COVID concert means you are singing and talking to a camera and a spotlight, and while you know that somewhere out there, on the other side, hundreds of people are watching from their homes, you don't see them, you don't hear them, and you don't feel their energy. You finish a song to silence instead of

applause, or to hooting and hollering in a crowded, beer-soaked barroom. It's all very 2020.

That the show went on despite the myriad challenges presented by the pandemic is a testament to the determination and community spirit of

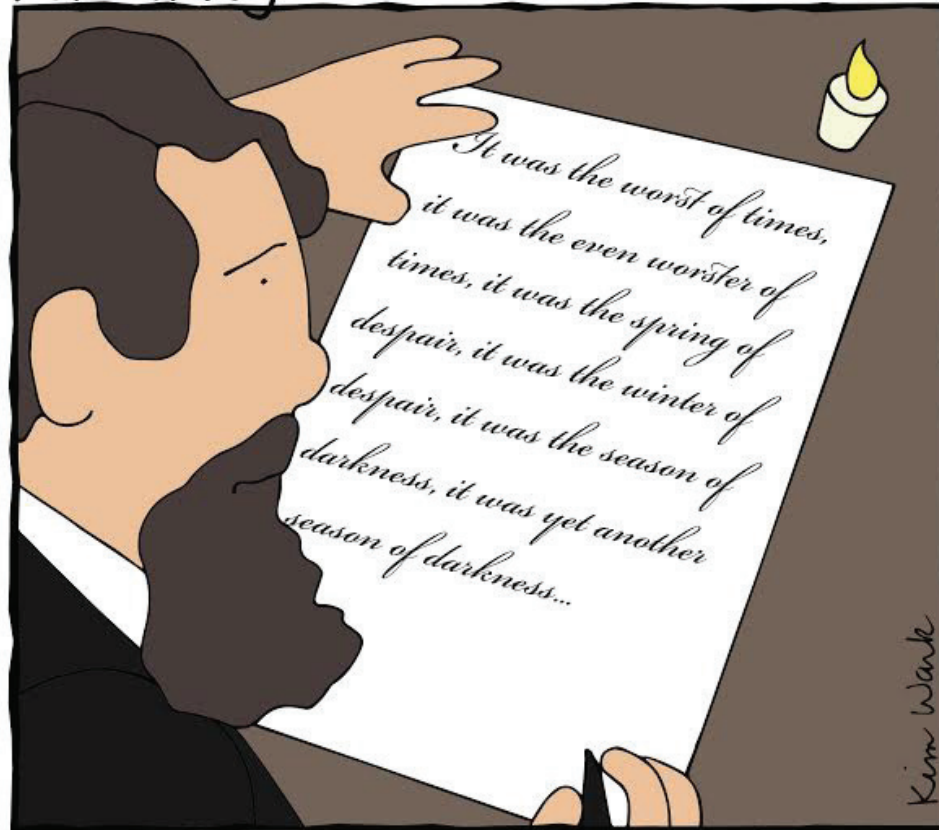
the many volunteers involved in its production. This year's Shindig included some two dozen people working behind the scenes to make it happen despite the logistical hurdles. They are too many to name here, but I would like to say thank you to Nick Russell and Jack Brezina for their behind-the-scenes magic in Minden, to Shawn and Elli Chamberlin at the Dominion Hotel, and to Mike Jaycock and his alter-ego Dame Beatrice for insisting the Shindig go ahead despite everything. It raised a record-setting amount for Fuel for Warmth, more than \$41,500, which should help many county residents heat their homes this winter.

One day we'll again be able to gather together for performances at the pavilion. Until then, take care of each other.



CHAD INGRAM
Reporter

Kwarky



A Tale of 2020

How many boats?

OVER THE COURSE of an outdoors enthusiast's life, there will come a time when you will be asked the question each of us fears.

Your significant other will ask: How many boats does one person need?

The answer is never easy.

As someone who owns a modest collection of boats – one canoe, one tin boat, one duck boat, one inflatable pontoon boat – my answer would be, "More than I have."

You would think any backwoods lawyer would be able to poke a hole right through this assertion. And, of course, you'd be right.

So, the first step is never to say this in front of your significant other's legal counsel.

But, if you can make the case only in front of your significant other, the best argument is this:

You say something like, "Yes, I have a duck boat for duck hunting, and a beat-up

tin boat for fishing, plus a canoe for paddling, fishing and portaging and an inflatable pontoon boat for small backwoods lakes and quick impromptu fishing trips. But, you know, I'm ashamed to admit I don't have a boat worthy of you ..."

This is the kind of statement that short-circuits even the most adamant anti-boat-buying argument. First, it gets their mind wondering "What kind of boat is worthy of me?"

For some, the answer is a nice 20-foot ski boat. For others it is a state-of-the-art pontoon boat, complete with stereo, reclining lawn chairs, cooler and barbecue. For others yet, it's the Queen Mary.

Regardless of expectations, at this point, they will likely ask, "Why?"

To which you would honestly respond, "Well, you are too image-conscious to be seen in my beat-up, old tin boat, you are a lousy paddler and not very helpful on a portage. If I took you out in my duck boat, I'd have to leave too many decoys at home, and there's no way two of us would fit in my inflatable pontoon boat."

So, forget about being honest.

Instead say, "I'm hoping to find new ways to move you around in comfort and style and allow us to enjoy time on the water together."

Very few people could resist such a considerate answer, especially when you say it with a smile on your face and a loving look in your eyes.

Sure, your significant other will put up a bit of resistance and hem and haw for a day or two. But during that time, the words: "I'm hoping to find new ways to move you around in comfort and style and allow us to enjoy time on the water

together," will begin to resonate and maybe even cause an unexpected smile or two.

Eventually, as winter progresses, the thought of enjoying time on the water together will begin to seem like a good idea. So some time, say around January, your significant other might say, "You know what? Maybe we do need to add to our fleet. Go out there and find a new way to move me around in comfort and style and allow us to enjoy time on the water together."

"Are you sure?" You should ask.

"Yes," will be the reply. "You have my blessing."

And that, my friends, is how you get your significant other to agree to adding two new boats to your fleet.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Canada's lost humanity

ONE DELIGHT of living in Vancouver many years ago was dinner at the On On restaurant in Chinatown.

The food was fabulous and plentiful, and sometimes we walked it off with a stroll through the Downtown Eastside, now referred to as the DTES.

The DTES was scummy back then; strewn with druggies, drunks, the mentally ill and people just down on their luck. Giving our kids a glimpse of the DTES after an On On outing was a lesson in what they did not want to be, and where they did not want to end up, when they grew up.

To me, the Downtown Eastside was another slum soon to be cleaned up; transfigured by good government and a society that cared about people who needed help.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

What a stupid assumption! Today, so many years later, there has been no cleanup. The place is worse than it ever was.

DTES now is the poorest, most wretched neighbourhood in Canada. There probably are not many more dreadful places anywhere on the planet, and that's saying something.

Here's one example of the depravity we Canadians allow to exist, and grow, in a section of our own country:

The example is a video, posted on Facebook and now in the hands of Vancouver police, showing a woman being raped in broad daylight on the sidewalk of a DTES main intersection.

The story of the video rape was made public by Daphne Bramham, a *Vancouver Sun* journalist and a former colleague of mine. Her story also tells of reports of women being held hostage, raped, brutalized and even shot in a DTES homeless camp.

Many other stories have been written about DTES depravities and conditions over the years. They have noted that the median annual income of the DTES population is \$13,600, compared with \$47,200 for Vancouver as a whole.

Also, DTES residents living in SROs (Single Occupancy Rooms) are eight times more likely to die than the national average. And, the vast majority of SROs have been found to have bedbugs, cockroaches and fire code violations.

The sub-human conditions of Vancouver's DTES have not escaped international attention.

Back in 2011, the *New York Times* described the area as: "a shock even to someone familiar with the Lower East Side of Manhattan in the 1980s or the Tenderloin in San Francisco."

"Just be careful not to stray too far south of Gastown into the city's notoriously squalid and poverty-stricken notorious Downtown Eastside, where drugs and prostitution are rampant," the *Daily News of Egypt* wrote back in 2010 as Vancouver invited the world to the Winter Olympics.

Last August the *Vancouver Courier* wrote about tourists from cruise ships being afraid to visit the Downtown Eastside. A German couple hurrying out of the area said their son saw discarded needles on the sidewalk and was afraid of stepping on one.

Even celebrities have commented with disgust on the DTES.

Rapper Snoop Dogg went on Instagram back in 2016 to call the DTES "Terrible."

"You need to clean this up," he said.

A few months back, former Toronto Raptor Danny Green called East Hastings Street in the DTES the "worst street in North America, in terms of druggies." That was after two of his bags were robbed during a charity fundraising trip to the city.

Some travel websites, including smartertravel.com, have warned travellers to avoid parts of the Vancouver Downtown Eastside.

Why do we allow this situation to exist? Vancouver is a wonderful city, a terrific place to live and a place for all Canadians to take pride in. Yet a good chunk of its core is a human hellhole many of us choose to ignore.

Its underlying problems are complex. Possible solutions are complicated and controversial, but governments, politicians and social agencies have had decades to find them and clear up what amounts to a national scandal.

Writer Daphne Bramham sums it up in her recent column on the DTES:

"On Vancouver's drug-addled Downtown Eastside, chaos and depravity have become so normalized that there is no humanity left."

No humanity left. How can Canadians let this continue?

letters to the editor

Comfort Zone Part 3 Nutrition

This week's truth is: You are what you eat. That goes along with the statement "garbage in, garbage out." I apologize for being harsh but the facts are the facts. Our bodies require fuel to operate. Like any machine, the better the fuel, the better the performance and in some cases, the longer the life of the machine. If you're like me you have routines around food consumption. We all have our favourite foods, our preferred eating times, and in some cases things we do when we eat (reading/watching TV/scrolling through social media). Busting through the edges of our comfort zone when it comes to nutritional habits can make a huge difference to our health. To do this we'll define comfort zone as a place or situation where one feels safe or at ease and without stress.

In order to make changes to our rituals we have to first know what our rituals are. Let's use the five Ws and one H. Here goes:

Where: Where do you eat? Are you sitting down, driving or walking somewhere. Are you in front of the TV or a screen?

When: Do you have regular meal times or do you fit a meal/snack in when you can?

Why: Are you hungry when you eat or is it a distraction?

Who: Are you alone or do you have company? Is it a regular family dinner

situation?

What: This is the big question. It is nutritious?

How: Are you rushing or taking your time?

Answering those questions honestly will provide you with a starting place. Generally speaking my answer to the "what" question is good. By now you should all know

that I love to include spinach in my diet. It's not that I love spinach but I love that I eat it daily. As for the other questions, well all of those areas could use improvement. To push the boundaries of my comfort zone I will focus on: eating only when I am hungry; sitting down quietly without any distraction when I don't have a dinner companion; and, eating slowly and chewing a lot (chewing is the first and

the most important part of the digestive process).

Implementing these practices would definitely lead to improvements to my health. I love to be an efficient machine for the rest of my days. How about you?

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG

Practical Fitness

Jr. Book of the Month - December



Hunted by the Sky by Tanaz Bhathena

Gul has spent her life running. Born with a star-shaped birthmark on her arm, she can either run, or die at the hand of King Lohar's soldiers, like the other marked girls. Like her parents did. So when a group of rebel women take her in and train her in warrior magic, Gul wants only one thing: revenge.

Cavas lives in the tenements, and he's ready to sign his life over to the king's army. But sparks fly when he meets the mysterious Gul in the capital's bazaar. Before he knows it, he's become entangled in a mission of vengeance – and discovers a magic he never expected to find.

Dangerous circumstances have brought Gul and Cavas together at the king's domain ... a world with secrets deadlier than their own. Exploring identity, class struggles, and high-stakes romance, *Hunted by the Sky* is a gripping fantasy adventure set in a world inspired by medieval India.



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
chad@haliburtonpress.com

Fundraising gets creative amid pandemic

from page 5

850-hectare area that includes the Fred and Pearl Barry Wetland Reserve. The evaluation work done resulted in the Kendrick Creek Wetland Complex being recognized as a provincially significant wetland.

“[A PSW designation] is the highest form of protection that a wetland can receive in the province of Ontario,” said Gerstl.

From the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Species at Risk fund, the land trust was awarded \$16,000 to develop best management practices for the five-lined-skink and identify potentially suitable habitat for the least bittern throughout the County of Haliburton, as well as remove woody regeneration in a large field at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve.

“The HHLT is proud to have played a key role in the PSW designation for the Kendrick Creek Wetland Complex and the mapping and evaluation of the Lochlin Wetland Complex that took place in 2020 with funding from RBC Foundation,” said Gerstl. “The mapping and evaluations were performed by Paul Heaven, Glenside Ecological Services Limited through funding received by HHLT.”

The TD Friends of the Environment awarded the land trust \$11,000 in 2019 to plan and implement the Land Trust Discovery Days Program, and provide interpretive signage at Barnum Creek.

Gerstl noted the wide range of supporters of the land trust both at individual and corporate levels, acknowledging dollars raised through increasing membership, \$10,000 in fund-

ing from the Coral and Bill Martin Family Foundation to offset legal costs associated with the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve and a \$20,000 bequest from the estate of Ian Daniel, a former land trust chair and founding member who passed away just before the 2018 AGM. Additionally, the Haliburton County Development Corporation’s donation of \$4,000 for trail development and signage at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve was acknowledged. Partnerships with Trent University and U-Links, and land trust volunteers were also celebrated during Gerstl’s address.

Wetlands concerns

Member Ian Darragh asked if the current changes being proposed in provincial legislation, would affect the Kendrick Creek Wetland Complex designation in any way. Announced in November, proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act would limit the power of conservation authorities in the development approval process according to environmental advocacy groups.

“It is of concern to us as well,” said Gerstl. “Without being a political organization we’ve been very close to what is happening with the provincial government and some of the lifting of the environment control that we’ve seen,” she said. “Time will tell and I’m just hoping that enough people will let their voices be heard because to lose the wetlands, that would just be a terrible, terrible thing to have happen. They’re so important to us ... to the people of Haliburton, they act

as a sponge, they clean our water, they mitigate the terrible flooding that’s taking place in Minden and elsewhere in the province. We’re concerned, we’re very concerned.”

Member Douglas Auld asked if a meeting with MPP Laurie Scott had been contemplated.

Gerstl said the land trust has tried to be non-political, which director Sheila Ziman said was necessary given the organization’s charity status, due to CRA rules about advocacy, however encouraged members as individuals to voice concerns with local political

representatives. Ziman said the land trust was able to do education around the importance and value of wetlands, and that political representatives throughout the county as well as municipal staff were well-versed in the necessity of wetlands in the area. The land trust is also in constant communication with neighbouring land trusts regarding protected properties and any potential threat to that land.

For more information about the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, visit haliburtonland-trust.ca.

Zoom meeting will detail affordable housing development

County residents interested in the details of an affordable housing development proposed for the intersection of Highway 35 and County Road 21 in Minden may wish to tune in to a Zoom meeting the development firm behind the project is hosting on the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 16.

As previously reported, a \$6.8-million development would bring 30 units in the form of 15 duplexes to a property between the intersection and the Gull River, a partnership between the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation and seasonal resident Bill Switzer of real estate firm F.W. Gwillim.

“We would like to share our plans for this project with our neighbours,” reads a release

from Tim Welch Consultants, the company working on the project.

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the company will host a public meeting on online conferencing app Zoom at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 16. The meeting ID number is 828 4168 8207, and the passcode is 549847, or dial by location at 1-647-374-4685. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82841688207?pwd=UFpwbkdpa2RUYmw1YU5sK2M5WTFZZz09>

Anyone with questions or looking for more information is asked to email Patrick Roulstone at proulstone@twcinc.ca before 5 p.m. on Dec. 16.

- Staff



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- Most businesses must complete COVID-19 safety plan
- Restaurants/bars must close by midnight
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- Limit of six people at one restaurant table
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- Gyms/fitness clubs must increase spacing between members to 3 metres (from 2 metres)

Please continue to do your part to fight COVID-19:

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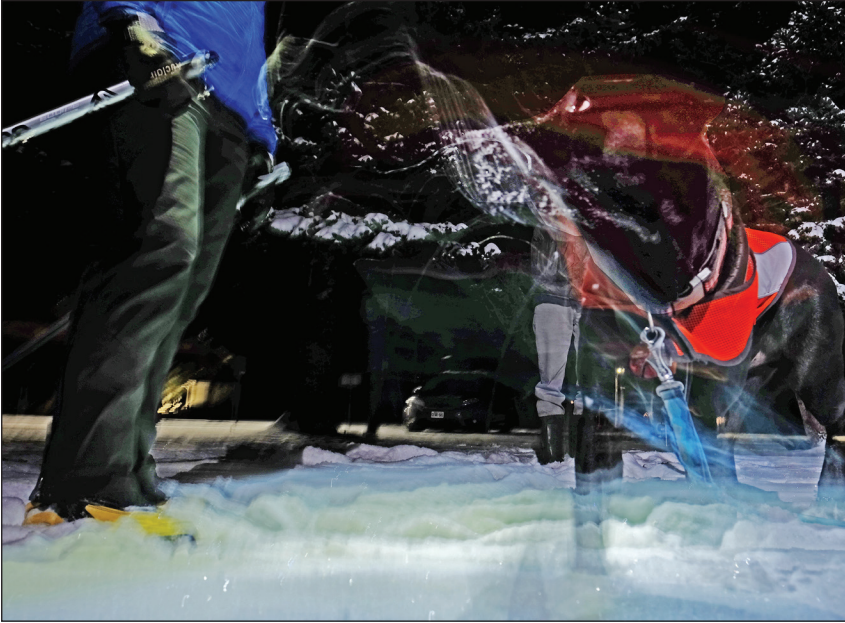
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Enough fun for Finn

With Joleen Thomas standing, left, Finn Dog waits for the command to return to the warmth of the van during a Nordic ski session on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at the recreation field by the Algonquin Highlands Township office on North Shore Road. Thomas is preparing to use the 36 kilometres of trails offered at three locations in the Highlands, maintained by the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association. See the association's website (www.skihaliburton.com) for more information and to register for passes./DARREN LUM Staff

Local home inspector and Minden Hills Councillor Pam Sayne was recently recognized by the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors for her long-standing service.
/Photo submitted



Sayne wins national home inspection award

Local home inspector and Minden Hills Councillor Pam Sayne has been recognized by the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors for her long-standing association with the organization and work in the home inspector's profession.

Sayne was the recipient of the Stephen Greenford Award, a national award presented to a home inspector in recognition of their dedication and contribution to the advancement of the home inspection profession in Canada.

A member of CAHPI's board of directors over several years, most recently 2018-2020 as director for Central Region, Ontario, Sayne has worked hard to enhance the status of professional home and property inspectors with the public, governments, and stakeholders across Canada and in Ontario. She was also CAHPI's 2014 President's Award recipient, a national award presented at the national conference to an individual who has furthered the development of the home inspection profession in their provincial/regional organization.

Sayne also served as a board member of the Ontario Association of Home Inspectors from 2011 to 2015, for two

years as president.

She was a member of the Canadian Standards Association Task Force for CSA-A770, Standards of Practice for Home Inspectors. The standard was adopted as the Canadian National Standard. Sayne consulted to the Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Relations on the Home Inspection Act 2017 to licence Home Inspectors in Ontario.

Sayne founded her company, Know Your Home Inspections Inc., in Minden Hills in 1999, but jests that her building science knowledge began at age eight, building structures in empty neighbourhood lots with leftover materials from local construction sites.

Sayne loves making the "science of the house" user friendly for her clients, and with a passion for hands on applications, enjoys introducing clients to the major components of their home and how they work; and brings to her business philosophy a strong desire to improve the health, safety and energy efficiency of housing in Canada – and the County of Haliburton.

Submitted

This holiday season needs to be different.

The safest way to celebrate indoors is only with the people who live in your home. People who live alone can get together only with one other home.

Gatherings with friends and extended family can carry an increased risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Consider celebrating outdoors or virtually with others that are not part of your household.

Know the gathering limits in your area before you choose to entertain with family and friends indoors. Indoor gatherings are not permitted in regions in Grey-Lockdown.

For all gatherings with anyone you do not live with:

- maintain 2 metres physical distance
- wear a face covering
- avoid potlucks or shared utensils
- ensure everyone washes hands regularly, including before and after meals

Self-isolate if you are sick, even if your symptoms are mild and ask guests to stay home if they feel unwell.

Follow provincial and local public health advice to keep you and your loved ones safe this holiday.

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Pandemic disrupts 43-year history of ice racing

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Just before 2020 is over it seems COVID-19 has struck another public event down.

Health safety is standing out as the guiding influence over the decision to cancel winter driving events at the Minden Fairgrounds this winter.

With rising COVID-19 cases in the province, and the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit region moving to the Yellow-Protect level of Ontario's COVID-19 response framework on Monday, Dec. 7, the township's Minden Hills emergency management group decided the fairgrounds should not be used for driving events this winter, resulting in an end to a 43-year annual tradition of ice racing and two decades of winter driving lessons by the ILR Car Control School.

Minden Hills chief administrative officer Trisha McKibbin wrote in an email, "After an extensive discussion, the emergency control group determined that in order to protect the safety of Haliburton County residents, participants, volunteers and staff that it is in the best interest of public health that the fairgrounds not be utilized this winter season. Past participants who have used the fairgrounds during the winter have been notified of this decision and have been informed that they are welcome to make a delegation to council if they so wish."

The decision was met with disappointment but understanding by all parties involved with the ice track and skid pad, whether it was the Kin Club of Minden, which has always created and maintained the winter venue, or the two lead representatives of the user groups from driving instructor Ian Law of ILR Car Control School, or Russ Bond, owner of Russ Bond Agency, representing DriveTeq driving school and SportCUP Incorporated.

Law said he was disappointed when the township notified him he would not be permitted to host winter driving lessons from February to March this winter.

"My heart sank," he said. "To be honest, this could kill our school. The winter is one of our biggest income generators."

Law plans to appeal the decision and will make his case during a delegation at the next township meeting on Dec. 10.

Kin Club president Andy Rickard, who said he respected the decision made by the Minden Hills emergency control group and believes in their reasoning to keep the community safe, said it was a unanimous decision (president does not vote) to forgo an ice track and skid pad this winter.

"There was a motion passed at our meeting last night that our motto is to serve the community's greatest need and that means to us, at this point, that's keeping the community safe, so the Kin Club have notified our customers that we will not be building an ice track this year," he said, referencing the regular club meeting on Dec. 7 in their food building at the fairgrounds.

When Law heard from the Kin Club about their vote, he wasn't dissuaded from going ahead with his appeal.

"I am still going to address council hoping they will give us special dispensation since we are providing a service to front-line workers and first responders with regards to their safety," he wrote in an email. "We can also let council know we work with very small groups and we can do so with no personal interaction between us and Minden residents. I know it is a very slim chance, but if they do allow us to do our training, then we would need to figure out how to get our ice built."

Rickard, the president for the past five years commended long-time Kin Club members Tom Prentice Sr. and son Jack for voting against ice making, particularly when Tom Prentice & Sons Trucking will lose the contracts for work this winter.

Prentice Sr. said they voted with the club and its motto: Serving the community's greatest needs.

"What Jack and I said was this is not the community's greatest need," he said. "This helps a few businesses so we kind of felt that bringing in a bunch of people in from the city wasn't the community's greatest need."

At 79, Prentice Sr. said it came down to safety for himself, the people and the community.

When the Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs pulled out of this year's ice racing earlier, a group including DriveTeq driving school and SportCUP Incorporated were ready to step in to help organize a racing series at the fairgrounds. However, the emergency control group decision has left Bond without a venue.

"We understand and respect the decision along with the challenges faced by the Minden Hills emergency control group," Bond told the paper. "However, we were disappointed that we did not get the opportunity to present our COVID protocol program to the board before they made their decision. Additionally, we really feel for the Minden area small businesses like the Dominion Hotel and others that we won't get to support this winter during these already tough times."

Weeks before the decision, Molly McInerney, who owns and operates Molly's Bistro Bakery with Guy Dumas, said losing the winter driving takes away another public event that draws people.

"It's events like the ice racing, Festival of Trees, the [Haliburton County] Fair, the [Minden Kin] truck pull, Pride Week and the like that injected new people and dollars into the community," McInerney wrote in an email. "We will have to get creative to make up for that loss."

She said the business has already tried to attract more customers through avenues such as participating in the county tourism department's "date night" promotion that started in November.

McInerney was optimistic about the situation, however.

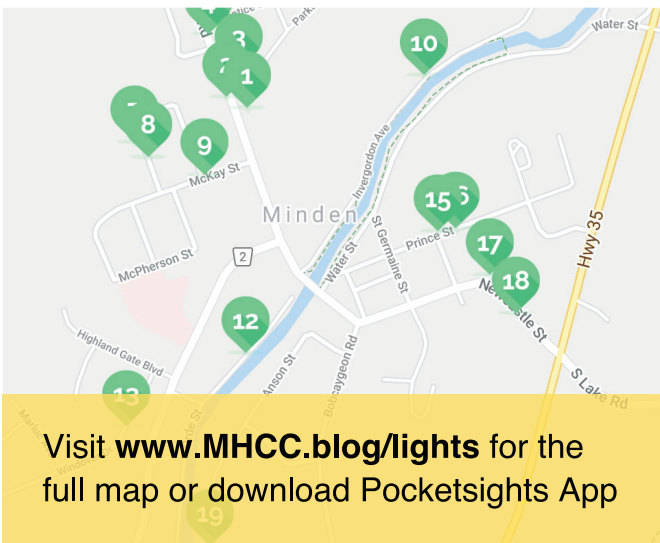
"The town might have a bit more business this winter from the snowbirds that are planning on staying home this winter. We can hope for a good snowmobile season and hopefully the trails in and out of Minden will be open," she wrote.

Law said there is an irony to this situation.

"So here we are making the roads safer, which means we're reducing the number of crashes and collisions on the roads, which means we're not only reducing fatalities, but we're reducing the number of people ending up in the hospital, which is one of the concerns for COVID, is worrying about over-

see TOWNSHIP page 11

Minden Hills Holiday Lights Contest



Visit www.MHCC.blog/lights for the full map or download Pocketsights App

Go for a drive through the Township of Minden Hills to enjoy the lights and vote for your favourite at www.MHCC.blog

Thank you to every participant for spreading festive cheer this season by adding their house to the Holiday Lights Trail Map. Good luck everyone and happy holidays! Details on www.MHCC.blog/lights

165 Bobcaygeon Road
6 Parkside Street
30 Prentice Street
181 Bobcaygeon Road
462 Bobcaygeon Road
22 Vintage Crescent
26 Vintage Crescent
6 McKay Street
33 Invergordon Ave
47 Invergordon Ave
20 Stouffer Street
17 Prince Street

20 Prince Street
1A Lyons Road
40 Newcastle Street
17 Orde Street
14 Windover Drive
3705 Deep Bay Road
47 Anson Street
54 Anson Street
11612 Hwy 35
1243 South Lake Road
2413 South Lake Road
1477 Ritchie Falls Road

1161 Lochlin Road
1175 Lochlin Road
1009 Fieldings Crescent
1125 Caribou Road
1900 Bethel Road
1927 Duck Lake Road
1017 Ben Road
1031 Ben Road
1162 Peterson Road
13502 Hwy 35
1116 County Road 21

Organized by the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Township of Minden Hills. The winner will be announced on the Cultural Centre's facebook page & blog on December 14, 2020.



Township cites public health concerns

from page 10

whelming the health system,” he said.

The experienced driving instructor said he never considered another track other than Minden's. He adds the local ice crew has always been very responsive to track needs, whether it's clearing an accumulation of snow or repairing any damage.

Rickard adds the loss of the ice track clients will reduce the club's revenue, but he fully understands a price can't be placed on a person's life.

“We're holding tight to hope for a truck pull this summer,” he said. “The club financially is OK. We're able to sustain ourselves until [we have to] set ourselves up for the truck pull. Hopefully this situation is such that we can have a truck pull in June because the town could sure use the party.”

Community Events

Send your events listing to

Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Ryan Vanlieshout in the Main Hall

Presented by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129-Haliburton

When: Saturday, Dec. 12, Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Haliburton Legion, Main Hall

Cost: \$10

Ticket can be purchased ahead of time at the Haliburton Legion in the Clubroom Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Monday to Saturday 2 to 6 p.m. starting on Monday, Nov. 2 or online with PayPal at haliburtonlegion.com.

Tickets will be sold at the door at the night of the event as well. **Social distancing will be assured and masks are required to be worn until you reach your seat.**

For Information contact: www.aliburtonlegion.com

Child Care in Minden



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Archie Stouffer

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PA days & Holidays
T: 705-854-1123



Go to: compasscelc.com or
OneHSN.com/KawarthaLakes
to find out more or to register.



Chilly take

Actors brace frigid temperatures at the Minden Wild Water Preserve on Dec. 7 while filming scenes for holiday movie Christmas in the Wilds, to be released next year. /Photo courtesy of David Gillespie

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING APPLICATION FOR MINOR VARIANCE THIS MEETING WILL BE HEARD AS AN ELECTRONIC HEARING BY WAY OF A TELECONFERENCE CALL

TAKE NOTICE that the Committee of Adjustment of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a Public Hearing on:

DATE: **MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020**

TIME: 10:30 AM

LOCATION: Due to the physical distancing requirements imposed as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held as an electronic hearing by way of a teleconference call. To participate:

Join the meeting by **telephone** by dialing either:
1-647-374-4685 OR 1-647-558-0588

Enter Meeting ID 832 5705 1502

Join the meeting using a **computer or smart phone** at:

www.tinyurl.com/yy3j6lgm

to consider minor variance applications **PLMV2020068**, **PLMV2020069**, and **PLMV2020070**. The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider the proposed Minor Variances to the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law pursuant to Section 45 of the Planning Act. The minor variance applications being considered are listed below:

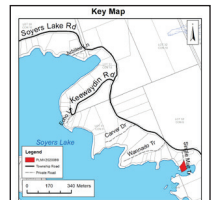
PLMV2020068 - Part of Lot 12, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1035 Sage Drive; and located on Little Boshkung Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the construction of a new 13 m² (140sq.ft.) sunroom and a new 13 m² (140sq.ft.) addition to the existing, non-complying, dwelling which is situated 12.8m. (42') from the High Water Mark (HWM) whereas a new sunroom would not otherwise be permitted within the required 23m. (75'6") setback and no increase in size is otherwise permitted for a dwelling situated within 15m. (49'3") of the HWM. As a result of the development the sunroom, and dwelling addition would project to either side of the existing dwelling maintaining the existing setback along the width of the lot.



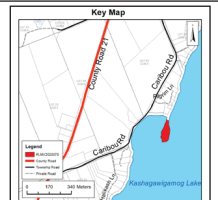
PLMV2020069 - Part of Lot 32, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1020 Single Malt Trail; and located on Soyers Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the construction of a new 22.5 m² (242sq.ft.) covered porch to be located 18.6m. (61') from the High Water Mark (HWM) to replace the existing open deck. As a result of the development, the face of the building would project a further 3m. (10') towards the HWM.



PLMV2020070 - Part of Lot 25, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1022 Pilgrim Lane; and located on Kashagawigamog Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the construction of a new 89.2 m² (960sq.ft.) detached garage measuring 5.5m. (18') in height to be located 16.8m. (55') from the High Water Mark (HWM). The variance sought would allow for an encroachment into the 23m. (75'6") setback from the HWM and for an accessory structure greater than 3.5m. (11'6") in height to be located within 40m. (131'3") of the HWM.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding these applications are available online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom. Copies of the complete applications will be available for public inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department by appointment only.

HAVE YOUR SAY: Input on the above noted applications is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Township. If you do not attend the public meeting, it may proceed in your absence and, except as otherwise provided in The Planning Act, you will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceedings.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: To provide input in writing, or to request written notice of the decision, please contact the undersigned or e-mail iclendening@mindenhills.ca.

ANY PERSON OR AGENCY WHO IS OF THE OPINION THAT HOLDING THE HEARING AS AN ELECTRONIC HEARING IS LIKELY TO CAUSE THEM SIGNIFICANT PREJUDICE, may make a submission to the undersigned, and if the Committee is satisfied that holding the hearing as an electronic hearing is likely to cause the party significant prejudice then the hearing will be re-scheduled as an oral hearing.

Interested parties are encouraged to join 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time. For additional information on participating in an electronic hearing visit: www.tinyurl.com/yyctaqaq

If you are interested in participating in the hearing you are encouraged to contact the undersigned prior to the meeting date with any questions you may have and/or to provide any material for the Committee's consideration at the hearing.

ACCESSIBILITY: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

PRIVACY DISCLOSURE: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

For more information about this matter contact iclendening@mindenhills.ca.

Ian Clendening, MPI., ACST
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment
P.O. Box 359, 7 Milne Street, Minden ON., K0M 2K0

Please note: paper submitted to the Township is being held for three (3) days before opening. If providing comment, please consider making an electronic submission to the e-mail address above, or, make specific reference to the Application Number on the outside of the envelope.

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In partnership with HHHS Community Programs, over 1,000 pounds of fresh produce was distributed in Haliburton County from Edwin Binney's Community Garden.

Funding support was provided to 12 local organizations through the federal government's Covid-19 Seniors Response and Emergency Community Support Funds. Over \$175,000 in pandemic support funding has been invested in Haliburton County through United Way CKL administered programs.

Haliburton County LCBO stores have raised over \$127,000 for children and youth programs through the United Way At the Till fundraiser.

Over \$10,000 in funding for fourinfo.com. This database is now part of the 211 system. Dial 211 or visit www.211.ca to find the community services you need.

In 2017, a Day of Caring for Community Living Trent Highlands was held to expand its community garden plots. Local businesses and volunteers helped make this dream a reality.

You can help make a difference in your community. Donate today by visiting <http://ckl-unitedway.ca/donate-now/> or mail in the form below.

.....

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Province:

Postal Code:

Phone:

Email:

Donation Amount:

Donation Method (circle): Cheque/Credit Card

Credit Card Number:

Credit Card Type (Please Circle): Mastercard/VISA

Expiry Date:

Dusting off forgotten musical instruments for kids

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

A new initiative to bring loved but unused instruments into the hands of kids throughout the county is only a few days old, but already an inventory is growing and a couple of guitars have found new homes.

Haliburton resident Tom Oliver said the idea started “pretty much on a whim,” when he saw a post from a fellow resident looking to gift her guitars to someone who needed them. Oliver works for Shopify, an e-commerce company, and is skilled at making websites.

“The lightbulb kind of came on and I thought, this wouldn’t be that hard, to put it together and just see who else has got instruments out there, just kicking around in their house,” he said. “I’ve been collecting guitars for years, and I’m as bad as anyone else in terms of having all these dusty instruments in corners. The idea just popped into my head – why don’t we see if we can round up all these instruments and get them into the hands of some kids?”

And so the Haliburton Music Exchange was launched, with a website listing inventory currently available, and Oliver arranging signage to bring attention to the drop-off and pick-up point - his home at 1003 Bolender by the Lake Drive, across from Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd. off of County Road 21. It’s all happening fast, but Oliver hopes it might



Seven-year-old Jaime Holwell helps dad Tom Oliver promote the Haliburton Music Exchange, an initiative to help rehome unused musical instruments into the hands of children in Haliburton County. /Photo submitted by Tom Oliver

get instruments into homes for Christmas.
“On the one hand you have all these people

that are in the spirit of Christmas giving, and we’ve got also these people who are having a hard time making ends meet and finding a present they can afford for their kids,” he said. “It wasn’t even that that was in my mind when I first started, but as I was thinking on it I thought, this is perfect timing.”

Quickly, he began receiving offers for instruments, as well as positive feedback from those who appreciate the idea.

“The response has been unbelievable,” said Oliver. “I’ve already got at least 10 guitars that have been donated, clarinets, flutes, some harmonicas, hand drums, there’s just all kinds of stuff that is slowly filtering through. Well, I say slowly, but not even, actually – this has all been within three or four days.”

He’s even had an offer of a donation from HaliUkes, and hopes to have a section on the site to promote that business – as well as others in the area that offer instruments and music-related accessories in the hopes that those who start to learn an instrument will continue supporting local options when it comes time to restring or upgrade. He also plans on launching a resource site linking to online explanations and guides, and also a directory of music lessons – some instructors have already reached out offering to help, perhaps with an online group session.

“It’s one thing to give a kid a guitar, but if you don’t give them any lessons, then you know, it doesn’t really give them a very good starting point,” said Oliver.

The possibilities are endless, but Oliver laughs: “I literally just built the site three days ago,” he said. “It’s very much the beginning, very much trying to build up inventory right now, that’s our main focus ... This is obviously a very long-term thing, and I’m not too worried about what we’re going to be able to do in a couple of weeks but it would be really nice to try to get enough that it has some impact on the holidays this year.”

The process to choose an instrument is easy, said Oliver, with the site offering pages to scroll through, images of donated items to click on, and a standard check-out option but without a need to give any sort of credit card details – the instruments are free of charge. Contact details enable Oliver to get in touch to arrange pick-up.

While he won’t be limiting anyone from picking out an instrument, Oliver said he does

hope people will come for the right reasons.

“I kind of have to put my trust in people to take if they need to take,” he said. “Whether that person was financially able to do it or not, my attitude is, it still got an instrument into somebody’s hands that wasn’t being used and there’s a chance that instrument is going to be used now. I don’t really see how that’s a negative.”

He hopes those who can, will donate toward helping with the cost of strings, giving back into the program.

And for now, any instrument, or music-related accessory like tuners, strings, sheet music – is welcome. While he’s opted not to move and store pianos or organs, he’s happy to bridge the gap between buyer and seller – or giver and taker – by posting it on the site.

“If it’s something that someone can use to play music, we’ll take it,” he said.

If, by chance, an instrument isn’t being used after being picked up, Oliver recommends bringing it back to circulate in the program again, or trading it for something else.

“You can’t push this kind of stuff on a kid,” he said. “Either they get into it or not. If you’re not using it, bring it back for the same reason you came and picked it up. Pass this off to somebody else, and don’t let it just go sit in the corner of your house.”

He acknowledges there’s a financial barrier for many kids who want to play an instrument, but hopes that by offering a chance to try it, the interest might stay with someone for life.

“I grew up in a home where my parents collected instruments, that was something they loved to do, I grew up in a house filled with everything you can imagine – cellos, harps, pianos, everything,” he said. “I write music. We’ve got a little seven-year-old at home, she sees me writing music, she’s writing music with her friends every night on Zoom, and just watching her have that spark to pick up a guitar and write a song, it’s awesome. I look at it and, this is amazing. The idea that that would be happening in other households is kind of inspiring.”

Oliver has been coming to the area since he himself was a kid, and bought a house here about five years ago. While his work on a sailboat initially kept him out of the area, with online work with Shopify he is now able to be at home.

“When I finally got a chance to settle down and kind of be here, I just thanked the gods every day that I had bought when I did, before the market went ballistic, and that I can call this home now,” he said. “I’ve lived all over the place and this is the only place I’ve ever really considered to be home.”

He’s also involved with the Haliburton County Youth Sailing Association, which addresses youth mental health through sailing. Though the in-person group was limited this year in how it could operate, Oliver said the Haliburton Music Exchange doesn’t have any sort of similar barrier due to the pandemic. Now, he just hopes it works.

“It’s just the anticipation of seeing if we’re going to get the inventory or not,” said Oliver. “I’m just hoping there’s enough stuff out there that we’re able to build up an inventory that gives us some traction and really makes this thing, a thing. Like I’m really at the whim of the community right now. The success of this completely depends upon everybody saying, ‘hey, do I have a dusty guitar, or do I have a dusty anything, and am I willing to give it up.’ If that happens and we get lots of inventory, then this thing’s going to fly.”

For more information, visit Haliburton MusicExchange.com, or Haliburton Music Exchange on Facebook.

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3		5	7	8				
2	7				3			
				5			9	3
6			2		7		8	
	1			3		7		2
8	4			7	5		3	
			8	4	1			
			3	2		9		

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 18

REVIEW

Review of Proposed Operations Bancroft-Minden Forest 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Bancroft Minden Forest Company (BMFC) and the Bancroft-Minden Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) invite you to participate in the review of proposed operations. This review is being held as part of the detailed planning of operations for the ten-year period of the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Bancroft-Minden Forest.

The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. The second opportunity (Stage Two) for this FMP occurred on September 15, 2020 to October 15, 2020 when the public was invited to review and comment on the proposed Long-Term Management Direction (LTMD). This 'Stage Three' notice is:

- To invite you to review and comment on
 - the planned areas for harvest, renewal and tending operations for the 10-year period of the plan;
 - the confirmed corridors for new primary and branch roads for the 10-year period of the plan;
 - the proposed operational road boundaries for the 10-year period of the plan; and
- To request contributions to the background information to be used in planning.

How to Get Involved

To facilitate your review, the following information can be obtained electronically on the Natural Resources Information Portal - <https://nrp.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online>.

- a summary of the MNRF regional director preliminary endorsed LTMD; and
- a portrayal of:
 - the planned areas for harvest, renewal and tending operations for the 10-year period of the plan; and
 - the confirmed corridors for new primary and branch roads which are required for the 10-year period of the plan;

In addition to the most current versions of the information which was available at Stage Two of public consultation, the following information will be available electronically on the Ontario government website:

Information available as described in the 2020 *Forest Management Planning Manual* (FMPM) (Part A, Section 2.3.3.3) <https://files.ontario.ca/mnrf-forest-management-planning-manual-en-2020-07-08.pdf>

The detailed proposed operations can be made available electronically for review and comment by contacting the Bancroft Minden Forest Company office and/or MNRF contact listed below, during normal office hours for a period of 30 days from **January 4, 2021 to February 2, 2021**. Comments on the proposed operations for the Bancroft-Minden Forest must be received by Corinne Arthur of the planning team at the MNRF Southern Region Office, by **February 2, 2021**.

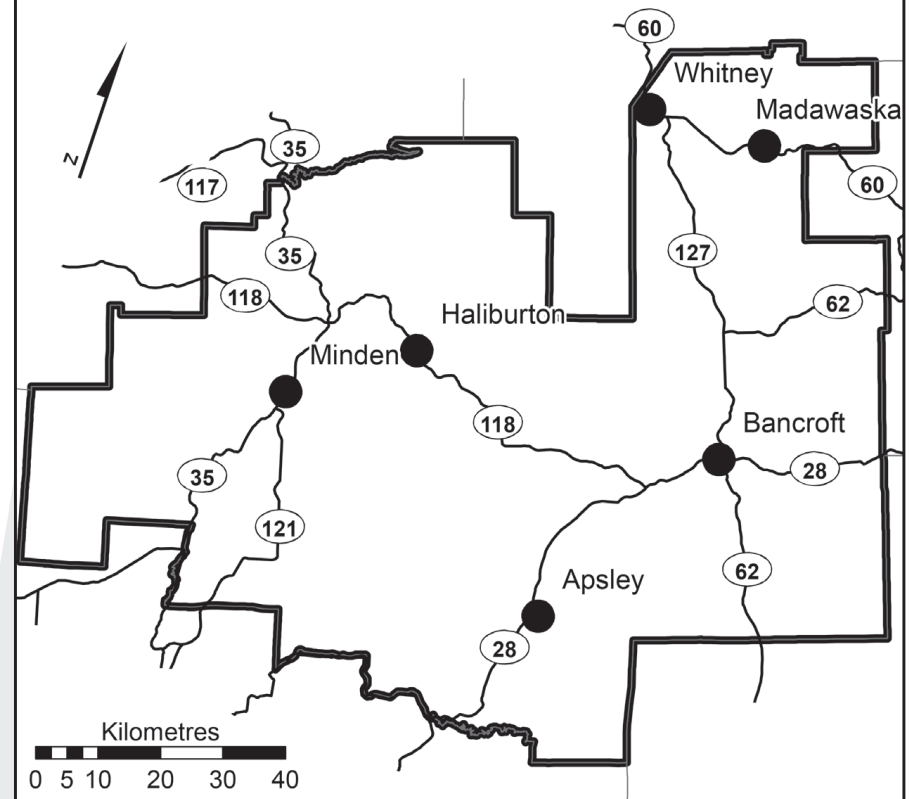
The Information Forum related to the review of Proposed Operations will be held via individual or group remote meetings which may be arranged by calling the individuals listed below during the review period. Remote meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be also requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to remotely meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

Corinne Arthur, R.P.F.
Regional Planning Forester
MNRF
tel: 705-313-3274
e-mail: corinne.arthur@ontario.ca

Svetlana Zeran, R.P.F.
Plan Author
BMFC
tel: 613-332-6890
e-mail: svetlana@bmfc.ca

Jane Dumas
Bancroft-Minden Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)
e-mail: mayor@southalgonquin.ca

Bancroft-Minden Forest



During the planning process there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the 2020 FMPM (Part A, Section 2.4.1).

Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-get-involved-forest-management>

The tentative scheduled date for submission of the draft FMP is March 2021. There will be two more formal opportunities for you to be involved. These stages are listed and tentatively scheduled as follows:

Stage Four - Review of Draft FMP	April 2021
Stage Five - Inspection of the MNRF-Approved FMP	August 2021

If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be notified of public involvement opportunities, please contact Jennifer Card at jennifer.card@ontario.ca.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Shari MacDonald by e-mail: shari.macdonald@ontario.ca.

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- Well Contractor
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6	3	9	2	1	7	4	8	5
5	1	8	4	3	9	7	6	2
8	4	2	9	7	5	6	3	1
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Haliburton County Council
is seeking members of the public to join the
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The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of local residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. Applicants for this position must be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of Haliburton County

You can find the detailed posting along with application instructions on our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers

If you require assistance with the application process please contact Andrea Bull, Human Resources Manager at 705-286-1333 or at abull@county.haliburton.on.ca

The application process will close on December 13, 2020.

Would you like to contribute to shaping healthcare delivery in our community and region?

Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) is seeking individuals to become members of the Board of Directors who: (a) are residents of one of the four (4) counties of Peterborough, Northumberland, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes; and (b) can bring volunteer Board experience, business/professional skills and reflect our changing community diversity to our governance processes. The Board is seeking strong contributors with an interest in future leadership positions.

The Board

- Governs the affairs of PRHC in line with best practices in the sector
- Advances PRHC's vision, mission and values
- Supports the implementation of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan and ensures that all decisions are made in accordance with the plan
- Reviews and approves PRHC's Annual Operating Plan
- Provides oversight to quality of care
- Fosters regional relationships needed for seamless care

All applications are welcome, in particular from persons with a background in accounting, information technology, government and stakeholder relations, governance or healthcare, and innovation.

Before applying please visit our website at www.prhc.on.ca and click on **About PRHC/Board of Directors** for more detail.

How to Apply:
Submit an application along with a resume by January 15, 2021 to the Chair, Nominating Sub-Committee, c/o Margaret Clark, Senior Executive Assistant, Administration, Peterborough Regional Health Centre, One Hospital Drive, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7C6, or **email mclark@prhc.on.ca**

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Carol Moffatt Stanhope Citizen of the Year

When Stanhope Township announced its Citizen of the Year at the annual township dinner last week, the only person who seemed surprised was the recipient: Carol Moffatt.

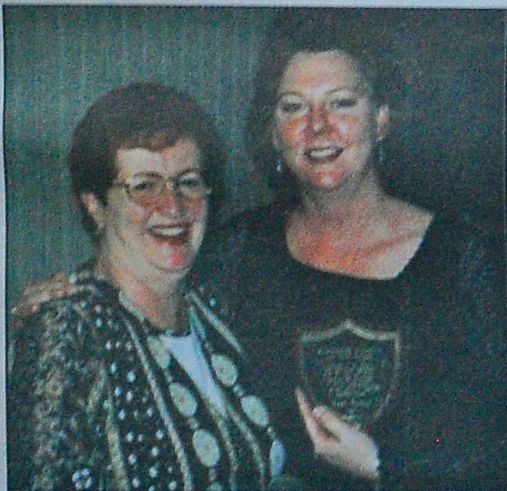
In handing out the annual award, Reeve Eleanor Harrison jokingly asked for patience as she touched on many of the projects with which Moffatt has been associated.

"The list of accomplishments for this year's Citizen of the Year is quite long, and possibly the award is overdue," she said.

In accepting the award Moffatt told audience members to make a note of the date.

"Mark your calendars, my friends, because this may be the only time I don't know what to say," she said.

"There are a lot of great people who have done a lot of great things for this township and I'm proud to be counted among them," she said.



Stanhope Citizen of the Year Carol Moffatt, right, is congratulated by Reeve Eleanor Harrison.



Several classes from Archie Stouffer Elementary School toured Rachel's Bakery in Minden last week. Pastry chef Marian Markowski showed the youngsters how all the equipment in the bakery works and gave them the opportunity to assist with the making of gingerbread houses. The youngsters seen here with Markowski are from Brenda Brouwers' and Cathy Rogers' Grade 2 class.

Like many Haliburtonians, Moffatt's roots in the county are as a cottager. Her grandparents built a cottage on Beech Lake in the 1950s; her parents built their retirement home on the same spot five years ago.

Moffatt, 35, has only been a permanent resident for nine years, but in those nine years she's made an indelible mark on the Township of Stanhope and an impression within the county.

Moffatt's most notable accomplishment is the founding of the Stanhope Museum. Her passion for Stanhope history developed while researching and writing a special supplement for the township's 125th Anniversary in 1991.

"I discovered that the township had all these fantastic original records and I simply couldn't believe it. I was hooked," she says.

That writing assignment became a hobby of sorting through and organizing the old records. That led to a proposal to council to properly store the old records, which eventually led to the moving of the township's first council chambers and the development of a community museum, the grand opening of which was held in 1998.

"Carol and her Board of Directors moved forward through dedication, hard work and sheer willpower to the grand opening of our museum," said Harrison.

"Without her persistence to move mountains, and sometimes council, Stanhope citizens would not have the museum," she added.

Although local history and the museum are Moffatt's passion, she has always found time to help other groups.

She sat on the Recreation Committee for four years, co-chairing the now-defunct Stanhope Fun Day for two. She's been producing a quarterly newsletter for the Haliburton Highlands Learning Program for eight years, and a bi-annual bulletin for the

Stanhope Waste Management Committee for four.

"You know that cute little one-pager you get in the mail with the dump hours on it? I do that," she says.

Moffatt is an unabashed fire truck chaser and, married to Toronto and Stanhope firefighter Tony Aymong, has proven a staunch supporter of the department.

"I believe in, and will always support, our firefighters. After eight years of watching these guys in the middle of the night, my hat goes off to them," she says.

Moffatt was part of a group of "fire wives" who put together a fund raising fire department cookbook in 1994. She's a familiar sight at emergency scenes, often putting her camera aside to help "the fire ladies" hand out refreshments to weary firefighters. She keeps the Stanhope Fire Department well recognized in local news and provides freelance coverage for the Toronto Star.

She is currently a regular contributor

(more on page 4)

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